

Remarks

Claims 1-30 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, 16, 24 and 25 have been amended. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

A phone interview was conducted on May 2, 2006. During the interview it was discussed that Applicants were going to amend their independent claims in light of the Chaar reference. Specifically, the independent claims were to include subject matter concerning the population of a database or data fields by a supervisory group. Further, the type of access each group would have to the data fields and the ability to modify the data fields would be clarified since not all of the recited groups had equal access. The examiner indicated that a new search may have to be done in light of the amendments described and asked that written amendments and arguments be submitted for consideration.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8-9, 14-16 and 24-30 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Chaar (US Pat. 5,960,404). The Office Action asserts that Chaar teaches all of the elements contained in claims. However, amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 24 and 25 each recite at least one similar element not disclosed by Chaar. As a representative sample, amended independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

“[a] method for managing three groups to complete a common task, the method comprising the steps of: populating database fields of a web application by a supervisory group with data required to successfully execute a plurality of related commands, wherein the population is conducted manually and automatically from both legacy Computer Automated Design systems and legacy visual basic systems...”

Chaar concerns the use of a distributed computer network system that allows interoperability between heterogeneous workflow systems and components. Chaar discloses workflow software components called Source Agents and Performer Agents that represent a service requestor and a service provider, respectively. The Source Agents and Source Performers send work flow messages back and forth called Task

Requests and Task Responses. Chaar teaches an example of a Source to be a centralized bank loan approval process where Performers are the people who execute parts of the loan approval process. The Performer Agent acts like an Inbox pulling work from each Source via a shared task list (1910). Once a performer pulls down a task from the task list, the work list prevents another performer from starting it. (Col. 15, l. 64-Col. 16, l 3).

More Generally, Chaar is directed towards an interface system which allows a task message from a source using protocol A to translate the message to a standardized protocol then translate the message in standard protocol into Protocol B used by the intended performer. (Col. 6, l. 39- Col. 7. l. 50). These disclosures are contrary to the claim recitations.

Chaar does not specifically disclose populating database fields of a web application by a supervisory group with data required to successfully execute a plurality of related commands, wherein the population is conducted manually and automatically from both legacy Computer Automated Design systems and legacy visual basic systems. The creation of a common task list from a number of disparate sources is not populating a data based by a supervisory group. Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, 16, 24 and 25 are allowable over Chaar for at least this reason.

Further, amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 24 and 25 each contain additional elements not disclosed by Chaar concerning access by each group to the web application data. As a representative example claim 8 recites in pertinent part:

“[a] method for managing three groups, the method comprising:
a second step of providing a first group with limited write access to the web application, to place a first information into the web application;
a third step of providing a second group with access to the web application, to receive the first information from the first group...
a sixth step of providing a third group with access to the web application, to receive the third information from the first group;
a seventh step of providing the third group with access to the web application **via the first group**, to place a fourth information into the web application...”

Chaar discloses source agents and performer agents sending service requests and replies back and forth (Col. 3, l 60- Col. 4, l.20) and it discloses the WfMC Reference Model that controls the interaction, query and control of work flow processes (Col. 1, 1338-57). However, Chaar does not disclose or suggest a first group with limited write

access to the web application or providing a second group with access to the web application, to receive the first information from the first group. Chaar does not differentiate between any particular Performers or Sources as to their read and write access to the common work list **1910**. In particular Chaar does not disclose a step of providing the third group with access to the web application *via the first group*.

For at least these additional reasons, independent claims 1, 8, 16, 24 and 25 are allowable over Chaar. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-15, 17-23 and 26-30 depend from an allowable independent claim 1, 8, 16 or 25 and are allowable for at least these same reasons

103 Rejections

Dependent claims 4 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaar in view of Olapurtha (US Pat. 6,678,714). Dependent claims 5-7, 10-13 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for being unpatentable over Chaar and Official Notice.

Further, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Chaar in light of Olapurtha to create the claimed subject matter as Chaar actually teaches away from the claims. Chaar specifically teaches that a Performer Agent acts like an Inbox pulling work from each Source via a shared task list (**1910**). Once a performer pulls down a task from the task list, the work list prevents another performer from starting it. (Col. 15, l. 64-Col. 16, l 3). As such, Chaar by its very nature prohibits multiple performers from working on the same task. Without conceding the point, Chaar may arguably allow multiple groups to work on a single project by allowing each group to independently work on their own singular task that is a part of a larger project. However, Chaar teaches away from multiple groups working on the same task with a set of common data fields.

Therefore, for at least these reasons and from the reasons noted above for the §102 rejections, the claims in addition to claims 1, 8, 16, 24 and 25 that have been rejected under 35 USC §103 depend from an allowable base claim 1, 8, 16, 24 or 25 and are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, Applicants assert that it is improper to reject a claim based on

undocumented official notice unless the facts asserted to be well known are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. MPEP 2144.03. Applicants demand written references for each assertion of Official Notice proffered against the various elements recited in claims 5-7, 10-13 and 20.

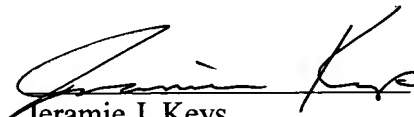
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-30 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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